

Subject: Dyer long pond

12/06/2017

To Kathy Howatt

MEDEP of Maine

Ms Howatt,

While on a hunting trip, my brother Richard and I were informed by a real estate agent, who was a friend, that there were lots for sale on King Cove road in Jefferson Maine. I took a ride over there and spoke with one of the King brothers. The lots were on the East side of Dyer Long Pond. It was so beautiful that I knew that I would like to buy a lot right there. With the King brothers, I walked all 8 lots and they suggested the lot that we eventually bought because they said that nobody would ever be in front of you.

Subsequently we did purchase that lot! All the way home we talked about what we would build and what we wanted to do with the lot.

I contacted the King's and made arrangement for payment and during the conversation I said that we were thinking of building an A frame. They suggested taking what plans we might have and showing them to a man that lived in North Whitefield named Roy Ripley. Mr. Ripley owed a saw mill and at

some point I gave him a call. He told me that he had fished on Dyer Long Pond for many years. It was a little known secret that Dyer had some of the best fishing in all of Maine. He said that he had caught seven plus pound bass and pickerel that were as long as a coffee table. He also said that there were white perch that topped a pound. He explained to me that Dyer Long Pond is one of the few places that Alewives would come from the ocean and spawn and this was the reason that the fish in Dyer grew to be so large. Remember taking a weekend run to Maine and taking photographs and measurements of the lot. I slept in the car that night too tired to pitch a tent. I remember in the early evening I heard sounds out on the lake that sounded like shotgun blasts but couldn't really see anything. I remember in a conversation with Mr. Ripley that he explained that the sounds I heard were the Alewives being driven up to the surface by the bass and the pickerel causing a tremendous noise, the Alewives were by the thousands. We subsequently, in the next year, built the A frame. During those trips I actually got to see what M. Ripley had explained to me. The fishing was as good as he said and the swimming and boating were magnificent. We built a float with a six foot ramp leading to it and the ramp was connected to a birch tree that still exists today. On the dock we made a makeshift diving board. There was no danger of them hurting anyone by jumping in because the water was deep enough.

Exploring the lake I found the dam at the Southern end of Dyer. The dam was made of concrete and had a spillway on the left side of it. That was for the alewives to come up the stream and get into the lake. The road over the dam led to a magnificent estate. In the opening of the dam, were three "boards" that I later found out were raised in the fall of the year and lowered in the spring by the people that owned the estate. The water in the lake, when I first saw, it was going over the top board and the reason I know this is that I beached the boat and walked up and stood on the dam because I had been told at some point in time a mill was directly on the other side of the dam. I did in fact walk down and found the location that had been describe to me. On the way back it was easy to see that there were three "boards" that spanned the dam's opening. That was basically in the 1970's.

Our kids grew up on Dyer; to my knowledge in that time frame, no one was ever injured. They learned how to swim, camp and fish all around Dyer. Over the

years something became different to me in that the water in the pond was reseeding. At some point, we had to move the dock out away from the shore because the water level was going down. For me the big indication of something being wrong was the afternoon going down to the dam. The boulders along the lake were and still have water marks showing that the lake was indeed reseeding.

Heading for the end of the lake my outboard stop because the water level at the dog leg end just before the dam was very, very low. I had to lift the outboard and pole my way towards the dam. As I got closer I realized that the "boards" were gone. I could see the base of the dam and I thought to myself, what the hell happened. I got the boat turned around, paddle my way through the opening and into the lake, cranked up the motor, went back to the camp and immediately went to see my friend Ben Benedetti. Ben lived on Dyer all year long; I could only come up to Dyer when there was a small break in the activities of the police department. Ben explained to me that he had noticed over the last several years that the water level of the lake was going down. He said that the planks that had been in the dam were no longer there.

He told me that the dam was owned by a man named Richard Saltonstall. He said that every once in a while he would see Saltonstall rowing his single seat boat up the lake and back. One afternoon, when I was at Dyer I saw a single seat boat rowing up the lake. When I saw the boat returning I jumped in the outboard and waited for him to get to where I was, blocking his path. I asked him if he was Richard Saltonstall and he said "yes". This is basically what the conversation was: Saltonstall said that the boards had corroded and he decided not to replace them. I said to him that the water level in the lake had gone down drastically and the shoreline at my house was completely eroded and dangerous. Actually a friend had slipped on the rock that was now showing and he had slipped and been injured. I asked him when he was going to put the "boards" back and he said he would not. I told him that I would have three special planks made and pay for them myself. I would put them in and out of the dam myself, with some help from my neighbors. He said NO and if you try to do that I will have the boards cut out. It's my dam, my lake and I'm going to do it my way.

My nephew lost an outboard motor to the rocks and I have been told that other people, who own property around the lake, have lost outdrives and propellers

because of the water level have gone so far. Some residents were so frustrated that they piled "pallets" in the dam opening to try and raise the water level. The "pallets" are now gone.

Since then people have been injured because the water level has eroded the land at the base of the hill. Some of the injuries have been severe. This area, when I first saw the lots was under water.

We built a slide from my deck into the lake. It was a long ride down and the kids loved it. Even my mother took a couple of rides down because there was plenty of water at the end of the slide. The slide has since been removed but if it was not and one was to come down it now, they would land on rocks. Not only is the water gone but so are the alewives. Saltenstall has had some boards put in the fish ladder but the fish can't get up to them. Where you could stand on the dock by the birch tree, mentioned before, and watch hundreds of alewives go by, now if you see two or three you can consider yourself lucky. What Richard Saltenstall has done to our pound, Dyer Long Pound is a crime and he should be made atonable for it. If anyone in authority was interested, all they would need to do is go down to Dyer with a boat and a camera, take pictures of the boulders around the lake that clearly show how far down the water level is now.



Robert Cercena

Robert Cercena personally appeared before me
this 8TH day of December 2017

Franklin County
State of Maine



JO-ANN BRANN
NOTARY PUBLIC
State of Maine
My Commission Expires
September 26, 2023



Robert Green





Robert Evans



ROBERT ELLERNA



Robert E. Adams

VIEW PHOTO

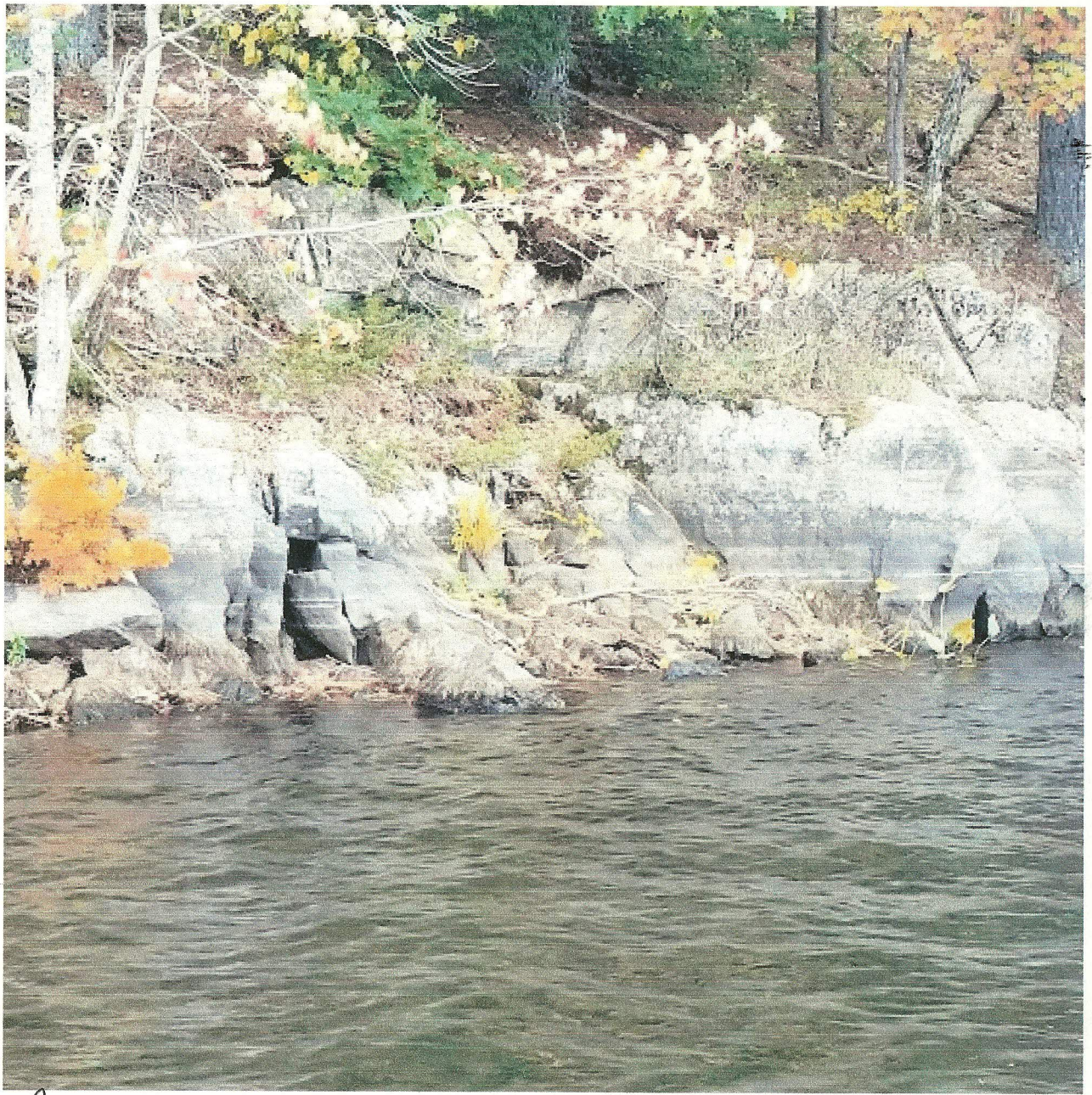


Robert C. C. C. C.

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Robert Elkins VIEW PHOTO



Robert Caccena

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Robert C. C. C. C.

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